# Who Was The Thief.

and would you please come down to her stateroom immediately?"

I had just shut myself late my little affice on deck, having run through the ship's accounts before turning in that night. It is quite a mistake, by the way, to think that we pursers have no more onerous duties to perform when at sea than to watch over the passengers' comfort read prayers on Sunday, and keep a store of nautical information at our finger-ends for the benefit of every curious voyager. Nowadays the purser of a crack American liner- making perhaps a record -passage of six days or so-has his work pretty well cut out for him during the entire voyage.

On the present occasion I had scarcely got my accounts fairly in hand when I was interrupted by a slight tap at the door. I rose at once and open it, and there stood Mrs. Melburst's Canadian maid, with flushed face and pervous, agitated manner.

"Is there anything wrong?" I asked. with some surprise, when she had delivered her message.

"There is, sir," she replied, hastily. "All I know"-

She was about to make some eager statement, but pulled herself up sud-Amly and tripped along the deck without another word.

I switched off the electric light, locked the door and hurried away after her. When I got to Mrs. Melhurst's stateroom, I saw at once that something had occurred to cause her serious anxiety. The berths, the couch, and even the floor were littered with the contents of cabin trunks and handbags. In the midst of the confusion stood the lady herself, looking decidedly perplexed and annoyed.

This is very singular, Mr. Morse," she said, pointing to an empty jewel case which lay open on the upper berth. "My diamond ornaments are missing '

"You don't say so!" I exclaimed in eleer amazement. "I do say so," she replied sharply. "You can see for yourself that they

"How did it happen?"
"I cannot possibly tell you. At dinner this evening I happened to men-

tion to Mrs. Latimer that I had picked up a curious crescent shaped brooch on the continent. She expressed a wish to see it. When the tables were cleared, I came in here, took out the brooch and left the jewel case lying on the berth. I was careful to lock the cabin door, but when I got back the case was empty." "How long were you absent?"

"Not more than half an hour." "Not more than half an hour?" "You are sure you had the key in your possession all the time?" ositive. I never let it out of my hand while I was in the saloon."

I was fairly stagger the lock carefully, but there was absolutely nothing to show that it had room when I go to turn in." been tampered with. I could hit upon no better suggestion than that Mrs. Melhurst might possibly have mislaid the jewels somewhere. This had the sole effect of exasperating the lady to. such a degree-for it seems that she had already searched every hole and corner in the cabin—that I was glad to beat a retreat in order to lay the matter before the captain.

I had just got to the head of the saloon stairs when I heard some one bounding up after me, three or four steps at a time. I turned and saw a Mr. Carter—who, by the way, had made several voyages with us on previous occasions.

"I say, Morse," he said, taking me my life I never had such difficulty to

confidently by the arm, "you've got some queer customers on board this

"How so?" "Why, some one's gone and walked off with my silver cigarette case, a couple of rings and a pair of gold"— "The dence!

"Well, it looks uncommonly like as if the individual you refer to had a hand in the business, for I don't see how any ordinary mortal could get into one's cabin, with the door bolted on the inside, unless he managed to squeeze through the porthole."

"Tell me exactly what has happened?" Dened ?"

"My dear fellow, how can 1? It's enough to puzzle a Philadelphia law-yer! You see, I went to my statercom after dinner, feeling a bit drow bolted the door—I can swear to that—and I remember flinging the cigarette case, rings and a pair of gold sleeve links on the upper berth. When I put lon my dressing account to the property of the part of the pa on my dressing gown, stretched myse the couch, and had a downright good snooze. When I got up, about five minutes ago, I found my trinkets had vanished."

'Pon my word, things were beginning to look serious, and no mistake! I lost no time in hunting up the captain and made him acquainted with the state of affairs. He was just as much proved to the state of affairs. much puzzled as I was myself. The first thing next morning he sent a message to Mrs. Melhurst, requesting a private interview in his cabin on deck. He also signified his wish that I should the be present. We both questioned the lady closely, but her replies did not tet d to throw any light upon the sing-

ulor occurrence. Nevertheless we determine close watch upon the state future. It was pretty evident we had a "black sheep" on board—probably an old hand at the business. For the an old hand at the pushed next few days we had no further plaints. The thief was evidently

plaints. The thief was evidently "lying low." waiting until tranquility was restored before making a fresh attempt. Meanwhile I kept my eyes open. I observed the little peculiarities of the different passengers and took particular note of the manner in which they occupied their time.

On board ship, when you find a man who shows a marked preference for his own society above that of the loungers on deck or habitness of the smokeroom, one is inclined to jump at the conclusion that he has some solld remons for his exulusiveness. If, in addition to this, he happens to be of an uncommunicative disposition,

plexion, given to wearing a sloother hat and long cloak, rightly or wrong by you put him down as a decided!

Suspicious character.

Now we happened to have a passenger on board—a Brazilian named De Castro—who tailled in every way with this description. But for the fact I had conclusive evidence to show he could not have been directly concerned in the robberies—for inquiries proved he had remained on deck the whole evening—he certainly would have been treated to a private interview in the captain's cabin. As it was, I was forced to conclude that black tair, swarthy complexion, slouched hat and cloak were quite compatible with a man's innocence.

Nothing further occurred to excite suspicion until the last day or two of the voyage. Then, one evening after

the voyage. Then, one evening after dinner, word was brought to me that three other state rooms had been rified in the same mysterious manner. Watches, jewelry and even money had disappeared, though in all three cases the passengers stoutly declared they had left their doors locked.

When the alarm reached me I hapened to be standing in my deck office I had in my hand twenty sovereigns which I had just taken in exchange which I had just taken in exchange for American money to accommodate one of our passengers. I didn't wait to lock up the gold. I simply placed it on my desk, switched off the light and hurried away. Ihad no fears for the safety of the sovereigns, my door having a particularly intricate lock, in which I took good care to turn the key hatern leaving.

before leaving.
I remained below for an hour or so investigating these fresh complaints, but, as in the other cases, I was utterly unable to make head or tall of em. Vexed and bewildered, I went back to my office, unlocked the door, turned on the light, and mechanically stretched out my hand to take the sov-ereigns from my desk. My hand closed

upon nothing more solid than thin air

my little pile of gold had vanished!

For a minute or two I stood there gazing blankly before me, so utterly ed and dismayed that I could carcely bring my wits to bear upon the mysterious affair. Then I managed to pull myself together and took a look around the little cabin. In the course of my observations my eyes happened to rest upon the port-hole, which stood wide open, the weather being oppressively hot.

I regarded the innocent looking port-

hole with the air of a veritable Sherlock Holmes. I went outside and thrust my arm in through the opening, but my hand did not reach within fully two yards of the desk. Still it struck me as being the only way by which the thief could have got at the money, and I determined to put my theory to a practical test

I hurried down into the saloon, where most of the passengers were congregated. As yet few of them were aware of the robberies, for we had kept the matter as secret as possible. I went straight up to a young American gentleman, who I knew had a great many trinkets in his stateroom, and was rather careless, too, in the way he left them lying about.

"Don't show any surprise," I whispered, glancing round at the occupants of the saloon, "but might I ask whether your state room is locked?"

"And is the port hole open?" find the place as stuffy as the engine

"Well, just pass me your key. I want to try a little experiment. Wait till I'm gone and then stroll up on deck. Let yourself be seen-on the lower deck particularly-but don't pay too close attention to any one you may notice loitering there." He fell in readily with my scheme.

I went and shut myself in his stateroom, crouching down so that I could just keep an eye on the port hole over the top of the lower berth. I remain-ed in that cramped position until my limbs fairly ached, and I was half in-

keep down a yell. In the dim light I saw a long, thin, hairy arm thrust in through the opening! The next moment a small black hand had fastened upon a leather case lying close to the window and withdrawn it as quick as thought almost.

I sprang to my feet and bolted out into the passage. I dashed up the sa-loon stairs and made for the lower deck. There, just above the spot where judged the state room to be situated, I came fact to face with the Brazilian, De Castro. In spite of the heat he was wearing his long cloak with the deep cape and had his eternal cigarette between his teeth. He looked at me with an air of frank surprise, and I looked at him with an air of profound

Suddenly a happy thought fiashed through my mind. I turned round and sprang down the saloon strirs, running full tilt against the chief steward, who was standing at the bottom.
"Nuts!" I cried, without giving him

time to recover from his surprise.

Really he looked at me with such utter consternation I verily believe he was convinced I had taken leave of

"Do you hear?" I went on excitedly.
"Get me a handful of nuts—quick!"
When he brought them, I hurried back on deck. The Brazilian had moved away a little toward the stern. I went close up, stood right in front of him, and then began deliberately to

i went close up, stood right in front of him, and then began deliberately to crack the nuts.

He regarded me with a pitying sort of look, but I paid little attention to him. I was watching that cloak of his. Presently I saw a corner of the cape drawn aside and beheld a pair of small gleaming eyes fixed greedily

captain's cabin. When searched there, Mrs. Melhurst's diamends. Mr. Carter's cigarette case and rings and a miscellaneous collection of other voluables were found upon him. John stateroom we discovered a personal thox, apparently intended for the box, apparently intended for the of the monkey, who was evoluty quite as accomplished a the master.—Cassel's Journal.

WHAT SNAKES EAT.

One Owned in Paris Averaged Pi-Meals Each Year.

During the last few months some of the gentlemen connected with the Museum of Natural History at Paris have given to the world various interesting results of their observations.

The learned professor at the museum, Leon Vaillant, describes the diet of a serpent more than twenty feet long, which has been on exhibition at the Jardin des Plantes since the month of August, 1885. Up to the end of 1895 this reptile has eaten fifty times; that is on the average of five times a year. The targest number of times in one year that the snake took food was in 1886, when he are seven times. 36, when he ate seven times.

Nearly always the food consisted of the flesh of goats, old and young. Three times, however, the repast was composed of rabbits and once a goose. The feeding of the serpent, which will eat nothing but what is alive, offers an uncommon spectacle, and many persons request to have notice of the times when the creature feeds, so as to witness the feeding. Yet the lightninglike rapidity with which the reptile seizes its prey produces a powerful impression

Apropos of the volume which can, by means of distension, enter the stomachs of serpents, Prof. Vallant relates that a French viper was once put in the same cage with a horned viper. As these individuals, although belonging to different species, were of the same size, it was supposed that they would live amicably side by side. Nevertheless, the horned viper, during the following night, swallowed his companion in captivity, and in order to accommodate this prey so disproportionate to itself, its body was distended to such a degree that the scales, instead of touching each other laterally, and even overlapping each other a little, as in its normal condition, were separated, leaving between the longitudinal rows of them a space equal to their own breadth. All the same, digestion proceeded regularly, and the viper did not appear to have suffered in the least. The case of the cobra that swallowed a brother cobra by mistake at the zoo affords another example of this extraordinary capacity for the accomodation of food.-Pitteburg Dispatch.

### WISE WOMEN MARRY LATE.

In America the Sex Has Gained Ac-vantages, But Not in Matrimony.

The strides which the movement an.ong American women to secure for themselves an independent livelihood has made during the last two or three decades are simply astounding. Nothing can illustrate this better than the following figures, which have referther of wor United States in each profession in 1890, the figures in parenthesis being the corresponding figures for 1870: In 1890 there were 4,455 female doctors (527); 337 female dentists (24); 240 1emale lawyers (67); 180 female engin-eors and land surveyors (none); 25 female architects (1); 11,000 lady painters and sculptors (412); 3,000 female authors (150); 888 female journalists (5): 34.518 female musicians (5,785); 3.949 actresses (GD2); 634 female theat. rical managers (100); 21,185 shorthand writers (7); 65,048 cierks, secretaries, etc., (8,106), 27,777 female bookkeep

Last year 1.805 women visited the universities, of whom 34 left them as fully trained doctors, and about a dozen, respectively, as lawyers, preachers and journalists. Of the above 1,805 students, 28.2 per cent have married. American women, however, do not, as a rule, marry until they have comp ed their twentieth year, and of these 1,805 as many as 887 were still under twenty years of age. Of women who hold diplomas as doctors, between hold diplomas as doctors, between twenty-five and thirty years, only 82 per cent marry; of those between thirty and thirty-five years, the per-centage of those who marry has rise to 43.7 per cent; of those between thir-ty-five and forty, to 49 per cent; and of those above forty years, to 54.5 per-cent. From this it becomes evident that of women who have frequented universities, at least in America, mar-ry much later than others. It is, peraps, a natural result of this circumstance that divorces are virtually a thing unknown among these late-mar-rying women students.—New York

Why the Dog Howled.

When Richard Mansfield's company was in Cincinnati recently Miss Jennie Rustace, the leading woman, had a weird experience in a hotol. She carries about the country a small, but valuable dog. She went to a leading Cincinnati hotel and was assigned to a large and splendidly furnished room. Her dog was carried to it in a basket.

The door had hardly closed on the bell boy when the dog was let out of its basket. It began immediately to cry and moan, and made wild efforts to scratch its way through the door. There was no accounting for his behavior, but Miss Eustace became alarmed and felt herself growing faint and nervous. She tried to pacify the dog. The effort was futile. She rang for the bell boy, and asked to be shown to another room, even if it were not as agreeably situated and elegantly furnished as the one she was in.

As soon as she got the new room the dog ceased crying and made almost human efforts to express its joy at the change. As for herself, her nervousness disappeared almost instantly. She thought nothing further of the affair until a few days later, when she overheard some of the guests of the house speaking of a suicide which had been committed in the hotel the preceding Sunday, the day of her arrival. Upon inquiry size learned that a well known man had billed himself in the room to which she had first been sent, and the body had been removed only a short time previous to he arrival.

## INDIGESTION

Heart Disease, Eldney Disease, Etc.

From the Standard-Union, Brooklyn,

Few women have had a more miserable existence and lived to tell the tale than Mrs. Anna L. Smith of 311 Pulaski Avenue, Brooklyn. With all the comforts that money affords, with all the happiness that many loving friends can give, the joy of Mrs. Smith's life was blasted for years by the terrible ravages of sickness. the terrible ravages of sickn story is most interesting as told to a

reporter:

"I was an invalid for years, suffering first with one complaint and then with another. The thing which caused me the most discomfort and made me offensive to my family was the worst case of indigestion imaginable. I had the best physician we could find, and occasionally his prescriptions relieved me temporarily. But the pains and misery would all soon return again. I became desperate, and started in to I became desperate, and started in to try remedies of which I read. Among them were the Pink Pills. I took the pills and followed out the direc-tions to the letter, and before many days I began to feel like a different woman. For six weeks I took the pills regularly, and I can truthfully add after that I was as well any one in the family. This change for the ter in my condition has caused my We buy them from the drug store of John Durves, at the corner of DeKalb

and Sumner Avenues. "I assure you it was impossible for me to oversee my household for three years. Now I visit my kitchen every day, do my own marketing and shop-ping; in a word, look after everything

connected with my home and family.

"Oh, yes, I still keep taking the pills.

I take one daily after dinner. Prevention, you know, is better and cheaper than cure. I verily believe one half of the women who are suffering from the ills which our sex are heir to would be up and well if they could be induced to give the Pink Pills a fair trial, I certainly recommend them heartily and and feel grateful to the physician

who put them on the market."

Mrs. Smith is a woman of some means and standing in the community and, therefore, her testimony will be accepted without question

thoughtful people. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from the Dr. Williams Med. Co., Schenectady, N. Y., at 50 cents per box, or six boxes for \$2.50.

BIGGEST PLOW ON EARTH.

It Takes Fifty Horses to Draw This Gigantic Implement.

J. Thompson is a ranch foreman of California, says the New York World. He is the man who designed and had manufactured a plow which it took fifty horses or seventy-five oxen to draw and four men at the handles to guide along a furrow. This agricultural monster is the largest plow in the world and is at present on one of the ranches of the Kern County Land company, near Bakersfield.

At the time that the possibility of this affair dawned upon Mr. Thompson was weary of cultivating with a two-horse plow the 3,000 acre wheat field of which he had charge. The top of the plow was five feet above the ground; the beam was a foot thick, the handles ten feet long and the whole thing was mounted on two eight-foot wheels to facilitate turning it at the end of the furrows. The driver's seat was on the axle of these wheels.

At the first trial ten horses were hitched to the concern, but as soon as the share caught the earth they were unable to move it. More horses were brought and still more, until there were fifty in all. Even then it moved very slowly. However, horses were cheap and their feed cost absolutely nothing. and, after the secret of managing it had been mastered, it effected a little saying.

Sneezing. The sneeze is without its advantages, says M. Sobier. In some foreign countries speezing is considered the height of ill manners, and yet how prevalent was the use of snuff in England in the reign of the Georges. A sneez is an alarm clock, and gives notice that the body is losing its heat too rapidly and needs protection. A sneezs may announce the approach of a coM. While a sneeze may not be boisterous, it should not be suppressed.

Racycle Presidential Puzzle Men and women, boys and girls: readers of this paper if you neglected to send in your answer to the advertisement of the Presidential Puzzle in last week's issue of this paper. sue of this paper, do not neglect to do so now. Do not put it off. Get your copy of last week's paper,

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it gives all the particulars which enables you to get the best \$100 Racycle; which, with the discount allowed by working the puzzle, makes it the cheapest as well as the best. We want at once a few Racycles in your locality as advertisements—now is your opportunity. Send us your solution of puzzle, your name and address, model wanted and height of frame.

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Arabian women, when they are obliged to go into mourning, not only stain their bands and feet with indige for eight days, but drink no milk dur-ing the same period, on the ground that its has does not harmonize with their

"You don't see apring signs in this much, do you?" "Oh, yes: crowds get per every day in frunt of bicycle show lows."

Willie Wishington was gazing into space with a look of intense angulah, "What is the matter, Willie?" and one of his friends. "Have you been having transhar?"

"Yana. I'm afraid that I've gone and nade inyself verwy unpopular with Van liggies and his wife, don't you know."
"Is what way?"
"Why, you know they both wide a bi-ycle."

"Why, you know they both wide a bicycle."
"Yea."
"In costume."
"Certainly."
"And I met them this afternoon. They
passed me one aftah the othah."
"And didn't you speak to them?"
"Ya.a-a. I wish I hadn't, foh, do you
know, every time I think the mattah ovah
I'm hair convinced that I lifted my hat and
bowed to Van Diggies and said 'Hello, old
man,' to his wife."—Washington Star.

A Trinity of Evi's

Billousness, sick headache and irregularity of the bowels accompany each other. To the removal of this trinity of evils Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is specially adapted. It also cures dyspepsia, rheumatism, malarial complaints, billousness, nervousness and constipation. The most entisfactory results follow a fair trial. Use, it daily.

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Perkins (to Jenkina)—I heard this morning that Barlow had been arrested. What has he done? Jenkins—Everybody. Piso's Cure for Consumption is the only cough medicine used in my house.—D. C. Al-bright, Mifflinburg, Pa., Dec. 11, 1805.

Mrs. Masicus-Did you have much trouble

in learning to sing so beautifully? Me Frankly-Yes; especially with the neighborhand FiTS -All Fire stopped free by Jr. K line's Great Nervo Restorer. Ko Fitsafter the first day's und. Marvelouscures. Treatise and Elizable Giberte to it cancer. bette to br. Kline, MI Archiel., Palla, Pa "Talk may be cheap," says the Manayunk Philosopher, "but the man who retains a lawyer knows differently."

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fornia Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

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